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Students Help Restore Storm-Ravaged Oyster Beds

Sandy this past fall. With the help of Jenny Paterno from Project PORTS, Mrs. Emily Diaz-Chardon's and Mrs. Betty Slusarczyk's classes are working hard to restore the oyster reefs by bagging clam shells in nylon net bags. These bags will be transported to a designated spot in the Delaware Bay in time for oyster breeding season. Oysters are a keystone species in the ecology of the bay. They provide food and habitat for other species and are an essential filtering system for the estuary.

Project PORTS is an education and community-based oyster restoration program, which targets elementary and middle school communities in New Jersey's Delaware Bay Shore region. The strategy of Project PORTS is to promote hands-on activities that present basic scientific concepts and emphasize the local significance of the issues surrounding the oyster resource.

Veterans Memorial students sift through oyster shells.